

**ALLENBY PARENTS' ASSOCIATION MEETING**  
**Wednesday Jan 26, 2011**  
**7:00 – 9:00pm**

**1 - Welcome and Introductions**

All persons present introduced themselves.

**2 - Adoption of Agenda**

**MOTION:** Stuart Baltman moved to accept the agenda as presented, Heather Rowland seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

**3 - Adoption of November Minutes**

**MOTION:** Heather Rowland moved to accept the minutes as posted on the website, Stephanie Kleiman seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

**4- Treasurers Report**

Stuart reported that on Dec 31st 2010 our finances looked as follows:

Total Revenue - \$62,372

Total Net Revenue - \$49,000

Fundraising has been very successful and with money still to be raised from Lip Synch and the summer Fun Fair, we are at least on target to reach our goal of raising \$63,000 this financial year.

So far \$7,600 have been spent this year. Stuart raised a concern that only \$2700 out of a possible \$16,000 has been spent by teachers on their classrooms. Each teacher has a classroom grant of \$400 to spend on non consumables. After much discussion it was felt that it was important for teachers to spend this money as soon as possible in order to benefit the students in their classes this year. Therefore it was decided to impose a deadline of March 20 by which time classroom grants must be spent. Receipts for reimbursement will be accepted until April 15th. After this time a discussion will be had about how to re-allocate any unspent funds. Lori agreed to write an email to the teachers explaining this decision.

It was also felt that it was important to remind teachers that they have a budget of \$300 to spend on inviting an artist into their classroom and \$175 for a scientist. Lisa agreed to email the teachers, resending guidelines on how the money can be spent.

## 5 - Principal's Report

### 5.1 Spring Report Cards

Further to her presentation in the fall on the changes to Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting as outlined by the Ministry of Education's document Growing Success, Jennie elaborated on some of the changes parents can expect in their child's spring report card.

In summary;

Parents will receive a report card in February reporting on students achievement from September until February.

The front page of the report will focus on six key learning skills and work habits - responsibility, organization, independent work, collaboration, initiative and self-regulation. Students achievement in each of these areas will be reported as excellent, good, satisfactory or needs improvement. Learning skills are evaluated and reported separately from achievement in curriculum areas.

The learning skills and work habits expectations are designed to help students develop a positive sense of self, use coping and management skills, monitor their own progress, develop and maintain healthy relationships, and use critical and creative thinking processes as they set goals, make decisions, and solve problems.

Rather than thinking of these skills as personal characteristics teachers are now looking at ways to teach these skills in a structured and purposeful way.

The learning skills and work habits also align with the goals of the ministry's character development initiative, as outlined in *Finding **Common Ground: Character Development in Ontario Schools, K-12***

Pages 2 and 3 of the report card report on achievement of curriculum expectations. The blank box in this section will be for a swimming report. There will be four categories for assessment and learning for each subject area; Knowledge and Understanding of content, Thinking (critical and creative learning skills), Communication (oral, visual, written forms) and Application (ability to use knowledge and skills).

Evidence for evaluation may come, as it always has, from a variety of sources that will include teacher observations, student independent work samples, student presentations and projects as well as unit tests. One change to previous reports is that if a student has not been at school

long enough due to recent registration, frequent absences, or a long absence (Illness, travel), the teacher may enter "I" in the achievement box, to indicate insufficient evidence for an evaluation, but will still include some anecdotal comments with observations of the student in the subject area where possible.

There is an increased emphasis on assessment *for* learning, in other words to improve learning, rather than *of* learning which is an evaluation at the end of a period of work. Students will be made aware of what they are learning and what is expected of them, and will be given feedback on how well they are doing it and what can be done to improve their work.

The final page of the report will include a section for parents to fill in, cut off and return to the teacher. This will be kept in the students file.

Questions:

Are children made aware of their progress before they bring their report cards home?  
Jennie said that it was essential that children are made aware of their own progress and what they need to achieve in order for them to evaluate their learning. However, she recognised there are some difficulties with this, for example, how to express learning goals for the younger children in language they truly understand. She also acknowledged that this was a shift in thinking and it will take a while for this idea to be fully implemented across the school.

Are teachers teaching learning skills or are the children being assessed on what they already bring to the table?

Teachers have always taught learning skills in a general way but it is intended that the teaching of these skills should become more intentional for those children who need it.

Is there any further news on the issue of school space?

The school now has 750 students and a parent asked what would be done in terms of space if our student numbers were to increase again next year. Jennie explained that there were two possible spaces that could house classrooms, the core french room and the drama/dance room. It would be a real loss to lose either of these spaces. However, the issue with space is not just about classrooms. The gym, library and music room are currently timetabled to capacity and there just would not be time for further classes to use these facilities. In terms of space when kindergarten becomes full time for all Ontario students, a province initiative which is meant to be complete by 2015, Jennie has no idea what the TDSB proposes to do.

## **6 - Committee Updates**

### **6.1 - Home and School Communications**

The school directories were sent out at the end of last semester.

Kindergarten Registration will take place on February 10th and 11th in the morning.

Tamara and Stephanie are working on launching the 'Market Place' on our website. People and businesses in our community will be able to advertise services and items for sale etc.

#### **6.2 - School Programs Committee**

**After 4 Programs:** Registration for last semester's after 4 programs was very successful and the same model of signing up at the end of this semester for next semesters programs will be used again for the summer program.

#### **6.3 - Health and Safety Committee**

**Walking Bus Initiative:** This initiative has been stopped due to questions surrounding liability and logistics. However, the APA aims to redouble its efforts to get as many children as possible walking to school on Walking Wednesdays.

**Traffic Safety Update:** There has been a signage change on Castlefield Avenue that prohibits any parking in the Kiss N Ride Zone from 8.30 am. Whilst this will help to keep the Kiss N Ride system flowing, it is recognised that there are now no legal parking spots on Castlefield Avenue and this will be a problem for some kindergarten parents. Discussions are ongoing with Karen Stinz's office about creating legal parking spots on Castlefield, west of the Kiss N Ride zone.

#### **6.4 - Eco-School/Environmental Awareness**

Volunteer parents are needed to escort teams of eco-reps around the school to do mini audits once a month. This shouldn't take longer than 15 minutes once a month. Please email [alex.vilde@rogers.com](mailto:alex.vilde@rogers.com) if interested.

Another big plug was also made to find a volunteer to shadow Alex Vilde in her role as eco school liaison with the intent that this person will take her position over in September 2012 when her youngest child leaves the school.

#### **6.5 - Fundraising**

Volunteers are desperately needed for this years Lip Sync to be held on February 10 and 11.

#### **7 - Open Question Time**

No questions were asked.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

